

## Lafayette Catholic Schools Mission Statement

Lafayette Catholic Schools, centered in Jesus Christ, educates the whole person in a culture that is:

- Sustained by Gospel witness and service,
- Imbued with a Catholic worldview,
- Supported by a community of faith,
- Distinguished by academic excellence,
- Committed to student success.

## St Boniface School

prepares students to be :

- knowledgeable citizens of this world,
- acting for the true,
- the good, and
- the beautiful,
- thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints in the world to come.

## The Christmas Crèche



Of all the Christmas decorations we so lovingly place around our homes, the one that is central to the meaning of Christmas is the Creche or Nativity Scene. Where did this long-standing tradition come from?

The story of how St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 initiated the crib is so delightful that you can tell it to your children every year. Brother Thomas de Celano wrote down the history:

“Blessed Francis asked a friend before Christmas, “We should celebrate Christmas together at Greccio. Go quickly and prepare what I tell you, for I want to enact the memory of the Infant Who was born at Bethlehem, and how He was deprived of all the comforts babies enjoy; how He was bedded in a manger on hay, between an ass and an ox. For once I want to see all this with my own eyes.’ When the good and faithful man had heard this, he departed quickly and prepared in the above-mentioned place everything that the Saint had told him. “

The joyful day approached. The Franciscans and people of the neighborhood prepared candles and torches to brighten the night. The crib was made ready, hay was brought, the ox and ass were led to the spot and Greccio became a new Bethlehem. The night was radiant with joy. The crowds drew near and rejoiced in the novelty of the celebration. A solemn Mass was sung at the crib. As they sang the night rang with exultation.

## The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath also prepares us for Christmas. The circle reminds us God is eternal – with no beginning and no end. The evergreen branches remind us God never changes and He always loves us. The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent. Three candles are purple (a sign of penance). The rose candle is lighted on the third Sunday of Advent to remind us that Christmas is close.



## Socks for Veterans

We have been asked by volunteers at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette to collect new socks for Christmas for the residents. This simple act of charity helps keep the men and women's feet warm during the day and at night. Any kind or color of sock is needed. The students are also making Christmas cards for the veterans to be posted on the bulletin boards at the various resident halls. If your child wishes to make extra Christmas cards, those cards are also welcomed. Please have all socks and Christmas cards due to St. Boniface School Office by Wednesday, December 12, 2018.



## Feast of St. Nicholas

The feast of St. Nicholas is Thursday, December 6. Since all the children at St. Boniface School are extra good, St. Nicholas will visit them and give them a special Advent gift that should be used at home. Be sure to inquire about St. Nicholas' visit!



## Christmas Parade

Representing St. Boniface School in the annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 1 at 5:30 p.m. is the Snow Prince: Lucas Gerkey and the Snow Princess: Kaitlyn Kuckkan. The alternates are: Bobby Metzger and Bliss Ulery. We regret that the Christmas parade was cancelled due to inclement weather.

## St. Boniface Parish Holyday

### Immaculate Conception

The angel Gabriel saluted Mary as "full of grace." Through the centuries, the Church has become more aware of this singular grace in which Mary was redeemed from the moment of her conception. The dogma of the "Immaculate Conception" was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Mary, of the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of Our United States. Saturday, Dec. 8 is a holy day of obligation. Please check your parish bulletin. The Dec. 8 Masses at St. Boniface are:

Friday, December 7

5:30 p.m. Vigil Parish Mass

7:00 p.m. Vigil Spanish Mass

Saturday, December 8

8:00 a.m. Feast Day Mass

# St. Boniface Parish Prepare YOUR HEART for Christ.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

This feast is celebrated on Wednesday, December 12. Please refer to the inserted schedule for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Hispanic celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Advent Penance

Penance Service for everyone, is Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Boniface Church. There will be many priests available to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Children Advent Penance

The children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 19 in the morning with their class. There are three priests who will assist with this sacrament.

## Solemn Vespers

During Advent, every Sunday at St. Boniface Church, the beautiful liturgy of Solemn Vespers are sung/prayed along with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. It is a beautiful hour of prayer, meditation, and song ending with a blessing. It is from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Children and adults are invited.

## Professional Development for Homeroom Teachers

All homeroom teachers at St. Boniface will be attending a series of four workshops offered by Wabash Valley Education Center featuring Kevin Dill.

- Nov.13 Powerful Solutions for Eliminating Chronic Disruptive Behavior.
- Nov. 14 Positive Behavior Support Systems
- Feb. 6 Creating Sensitive Classrooms
- March 6 Focusing on an Executive Functioning Friendly Classroom

During his tenure in education, Kevin Dill has served as a special education teacher, public school principal, and director of special education. An accomplished and renowned educator and speaker, Kevin offers practical instructional strategies to help all students learn. Kevin is known across the country for his innovative and researched based strategies designed to eliminate chronic disruptive behavior and improve student performance in the classroom. He is a specialist in the area of student behavior with over 20 years of teaching experience. Kevin has authored several education resources including Powerful Solutions to Positive Behavior.

## St. Boniface Spelling Bee

Every year the students at St. Boniface participate in the Christian School Spelling Bee and the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee.

Each homeroom has its own spelling competition so that all students have equal chance to decide who is eligible for the St. Boniface Spelling Bee will be held Friday, December 21, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. in the gym. Three students plus one alternate are selected from each homeroom for the St. Boniface Bee. At this St. Boniface Bee the overall winner becomes the contestant for the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee held March 2, 2019. The winner and runner-up of the St. Boniface Bee both receive a one-year online subscription to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Also at the St. Boniface Bee, the top speller from each homeroom participates in the Christian Spelling Bee on Monday, February 4, 2019.

All family members are invited to the gym on Friday, December 21 for the St. Boniface Spelling Bee at 8:15 a.m.

## Technology

Please take time to read the revised St. Boniface School Technology Policy regarding cell phones, smart watches, ipads and computers. Although you received this policy during the month of November, we already had to revise it due to a few students wearing smart watches. The students have been very good about keeping their phones in their book bag. However, with smart watches on their wrists the students are constantly distracted since the smart watch has more information and is a source of outside calls and emails. Smart watches need to be kept at home, or in the school bag, or in the school office. They are NOT for the classroom.

Also take time to read the attached article take from **Wait Until 8th**. It makes you think about your responsibilities as a parent and reconsider what you are purchasing for your child especially as the Christmas season approaches.

For more information refer to : <https://waituntil8th.org>

## Report Cards

All report cards will be mailed to the home address of each student. You should receive the report card before Christmas. Please let us know if you do not receive your child's report card.

## Gift Giving at School

Students **MAY NOT** bring gifts to school for other students. Party invitations **MAY NOT BE HANDED OUT** during school time. If friends wish to exchange gifts, it must be done at home. At this tender age, gift exchanges and party invitations cause exclusion and hurt feelings.

## Christmas Activities

### Friday, December 21, 2018

Wear red and green accessories with the uniform slacks or jumper.

8:15	St. Boniface Spelling Bee in the gym	
10:00	Students return to class	
11:30	Regular lunch	
12:00	Regular Recess	
12:45	St. Boniface Band	Family Invited
1:00	Christmas caroling	Family Invited
1:15	Christmas movie	Family Invited
2:15	Christmas party in each homeroom	
2:45	Clean up after the Christmas party	
3:00	Students are dismissed	

**December 24, 2018**

**Christmas Vacation begins**

**Monday, January 7, 2019**

**Teachers return for In-Service**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

**Students return to School**

*Merry Christmas*

# **ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL DECEMBER 1, 2018**

## **Policy Regarding Use of Phones, Smart Watches, iPads, Computers**

### ***Cell phone and Smart Watches Rules***

1. Silenced at all times
2. Stored in backpacks all day
  - This includes: arrival, dismissal, lunch, recess, band, and sports
3. All phone calls are made in the office during the school day and after school.
4. Smart watches are not to be worn during school time.
5. Smart watches may be stored in backpacks or in the school office.

### ***Cell phone Consequences***

1. First offense:
  - The teacher takes the phone or smart watch
  - The phone or smart watch is stored in the office until end of the day
  - Student receives the phone or smart watch at the end of the day
  - Name and date of confiscation is recorded
2. Second offense:
  - Parent picks up phone or smart watch in office at end of day
3. Third offense:
  - Parent notified and school office holds cell phone or smart watch for 3 days
4. Fourth offense:
  - Meeting with parent to determine future usage

### ***iPad and Computer Rules***

1. Care and Handling
  - Carry iPad carefully with two hands.
  - Keep cover on the iPad at all times.
  - Place iPad on desk – never on the floor
  - Do not eat or drink while using iPad
2. Internet Rules
  - Use only assigned websites.
  - Download only teacher approved programs or apps
  - Games, music, screenshots or recording are allowed only when instructed by your teacher.
  - Airdropping is shut off on all devices
  - Notify your teacher if there is a problem

### ***iPad and Computer Consequences***

1. First Offense:
  - The teacher takes the iPad for 24 hours.
  - All work is completed on paper
2. Second Offense:
  - Teacher withholds the iPad for 2 school days (48 hours)
  - All work is completed on paper
3. Third Offense:
  - Loss of iPad for 5 school days (120 hours)
  - All work is completed on paper
  - When iPad usage resumes, controls will be increased
4. Fourth Offense:
  - Meeting with parent to determine future usage

# WAIT UNTIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

<https://waituntil8th.org>

## We empower parents to say yes to waiting for the smartphone.

The Wait Until 8th pledge empowers parents to rally together to delay giving children a smartphone until at least 8th grade. By banding together, this will decrease the pressure felt by kids and parents alike over the kids having a smartphone.

Smartphones are distracting and potentially dangerous for children yet are widespread in elementary and middle school because of unrealistic social pressure and expectations to have one.

These devices are quickly changing childhood for children. Playing outdoors, spending time with friends, reading books and hanging out with family is happening a lot less to make room for hours of snap chatting, instagramming, and You Tube.

Parents feel powerless in this uphill battle and need community support to help delay the ever-evolving presence of the smartphone in the classroom, social arena and family dinner table. Let's band together to wait until at least eighth grade before children are allowed to have a smartphone.

Every major carrier makes a basic phone that just calls and texts without a data plan if you believe your child will need to get in touch with you before 8th grade. The Wait Until 8th pledge is encouraging parents to delay the smartphone. If you would like your child to have a basic phone that just calls and texts or a two-way calling watch, you still can sign the pledge! The basic phone and two-way calling watch avoid many of the distractions and dangers of the smartphone.

## Why Wait?

**There is a reason why top Silicon Valley executives are saying no to the smartphone until at least 14 for their children. In fact, there is a long list of reasons and parents need to know them.**

## **SMARTPHONES ARE CHANGING CHILDHOOD**

Childhood is changing for children. Playing outdoors, spending time with friends and family, and reading books is happening a lot less to make room for hours of snap chatting, instagramming, and catching up on You Tube. With children spending anywhere between 3 to 7 hours daily in front of a screen, many childhood essentials are pushed aside for online amusement.

## **SMARTPHONES ARE ADDICTIVE**

New research shows dependence on your smartphone may produce some of the same addictive brain responses similar to alcohol, drug and gambling addictions. Smartphones are like slot machines in your children's pocket constantly persuading them to crave more. The tech industry intentionally designs smartphone apps and social media for people to use for long periods of time to make money.

## **SMARTPHONES ARE AN ACADEMIC DISTRACTION**

Elementary and middle school years establish the foundation for your child's academic success. Children learn how to productively manage time, projects and homework. Introducing a constant distraction with a smartphone is paving a path for academic mediocrity. Studies show that after a child receives a smartphone the child's grades are likely to suffer. Another study found that children who attend schools with smartphone bans did better on tests.

## **SMARTPHONES IMPAIR SLEEP**

Studies show that the use of smartphones and other portable devices with screens affects the quantity and quality of sleep in children and teens. Adolescents are likely restless because they anticipate receiving texts and social media messages from friends, which affects their nighttime routine. Sleep disturbance in childhood is known to have adverse effects on health, including poor diet, obesity, weakened immune system, stunted growth, and mental health issues.

## **SMARTPHONES INTERFERE WITH RELATIONSHIPS**

Many parents regret allowing their child to have a smartphone because they have experienced the way the smartphone is destructive to relationships. The parent child relationship suffers. Children are often inattentive with the constant distraction the phone brings. Face to face relationships dwindle as children shift their time and energy to investing in their online "friendships."

## **SMARTPHONES INCREASE THE RISK FOR ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION**

Children are not emotionally equipped to navigate tricky social media waters at such an early age. Viewing someone else's highlight reel on social media often leads youth to think they are missing out or are not enough compared with their peers. Research shows that the more time someone uses social media the more likely they are to be depressed. In addition, when children overuse technology, the constant stimulation of the brain causes the hormone cortisol to rise. Too much cortisol can inhibit a child from feeling calm. The loss of tranquility can lead to serious anxiety disorders.

## **SMARTPHONES PUT YOUR CHILD AT RISK FOR CYBER BULLYING**

Bullying is no longer limited to the playground or locker room. Bullies seek to harm children through social media and texts often making retreat for the victim impossible. The most common medium used for cyber bullying is the phone. Nearly 43% of children have been bullied online. Only one in 10 victims will inform a parent or trusted adult of their abuse.

## **SMARTPHONES EXPOSE CHILDREN TO SEXUAL CONTENT**

Smartphones have enabled children to view pornography anywhere. Pornography marketers target youth online to lure them to dangerous images and videos. One study showed that 42% of online youth users have been exposed to online pornography. Of those, 66% reported unwanted exposure to pornography through online ads. Not only are children viewing sexual content but they are creating it. More children are "sexting" (sending sexual text messages and images). Various apps open the doors to sexual predators seeking to track, groom and harm children.

## **TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVES BAN SMARTPHONES FOR THEIR CHILDREN**

According to *New York Times* many technology executives wait until their child is 14 before they allow them to have a phone. While these teenagers can make calls and text, they are not given a data plan until 16. If leaders of digital giants like Google, eBay, Apple and Yahoo are delaying the smartphone then should this not give us pause? Executives that flourish on the success of technology are protecting their children from the smartphone. Should we not do the same?